

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data
Ballona Creek Estuary**

Summary of Proposed Action

Proposed New Delistings

- Delist aroclor in tissue because we have a listing for PCBs.

This action affects the aquatic life beneficial uses.

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Ballona Creek Estuary	Pollutants/Stressors	Delete: aroclor
Hydrologic Unit	405.13	Source(s)	
Total Waterbody Size	2.5	TMDL Priority	55
Size Affected	2.5	TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	
Extent of Impairment	Entire estuary	TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	

Watershed Characteristics

The most recent Water Quality Assessment Report indicates impairment in this watershed due to coliform and its effects such as shellfish harvesting advisories; trash; PCBs and pesticides of historical origin such as DDT, chlordane, and dieldrin, as well as their effects such as sediment toxicity; metals such as lead, silver, arsenic, copper, cadmium, and zinc, as well as their effects such as water column toxicity; and tributyltin.

Ballona Creek is completely channelized to the ocean except for the estuarine portion which has a soft bottom. While at one time it drained into a large wetlands complex, it now has no direct connection to the few wetlands remaining in the area although tide gates exist in the channel which connect to Ballona Wetlands. However, Ballona Creek may more often affect the nearby wetlands due to wave action moving trash, suspended material and dissolved contaminants from the ocean to the nearby Ballona Wetlands and Marina del Rey Harbor within which complex Ballona Lagoon is located.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained

Sediment Quality Guidelines

Beneficial Uses Affected

Aquatic Life

Data Assessment

Sed chem (95, 97, 99): lead, total chlordane, and DDT.

Table 2. Summary of Tissue and Sediment Data for the Ballona Creek Estuary

Dates of Sampling	January 1993 September 1995 October/December 1997 January 1999
Number of Samples (n)	1993: 1 (sediment); 1995: 16 (sediment) 1997: 16 (sediment); 1999: 16 (sediment)
Minimum Data Value	
Maximum Data Value	Lead: 470 ppm; Total chlordane: 562 ppb; p,p'-DDE: 148 ppm
Median Data Value	
Arithmetic Mean Value	
Standard Deviation	
Number (Percent) above Objective	Lead: (@ 15 %); Chlordane: (25%); DDE: (@ 10%)

This table may summarize additional data not relevant to this factsheet that supports a continued listing for this waterbody.

Potential Sources

N/A

References

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Maintenance Dredging Sampling Program.
Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program database